

Who is MAWA?

The Montana Association of WIC Agencies. A voluntary association, first started in 1999 to be a voice for, and to represent the local WIC agencies and staff. Not supported directly by State WIC money. We are a 501c. We have to raise our own money, through dues paid by the members, and activities such as setting up vendors and exhibitors for State WIC conferences.

The by-laws were written in March, 2001. Dues are paid by local agencies or local WIC staff, by April 1 of each year. Local Agencies may pay dues for MAWA out of their WIC budget. There is one general membership meeting each year, for dues-paying members, usually held concurrently with the State WIC conference in the spring. This is when election of new officers occurs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this association is to provide a collaborative forum to advocate professional growth and promote the integrity of nutrition services to Montana's women, infants and children.

Our Goals

- A. To establish an efficient organization that meets the needs of Montana's Local WIC Agencies.
- B. To ensure educational and professionally valuable meetings for the local agency staff.
- C. To share a variety of accurate and appropriate nutrition information provided to Montana WIC clients.
- D. To develop a communication network between local and state agencies.
- E. To educate the public and state government on the success of the WIC program to positively impact the nutrition and health status of families.
- F. To promote WIC to increase client participation.
- G. To act in an advisory capacity to the state agency to enhance delivery of program services to clients.

Current Board Members: *President: Arwen Welandar (Missoula); President-Elect: Gayle Espeseth (Billings WIC); Treasurer: Teresa Messerman (Ravallie); Secretary: Kate Devino (Missoula); Nominating Chair: Deb Fix (Crow).*

1. MAWA's role in the Work Study Group.
 - MAWA recruited current membership through the WIC Newsletter, asking interested staff to fill out the application. Selected the local agency representatives on the WWG with the goal of having adequate representation of all sizes of WIC agencies, and the reservations.
2. WWG Membership Terms:
 - Two-year membership as the standard. For this first Work Group, we would like to recruit half of the current members to serve a 3 year term, in order to provide for staggering of terms, so that there isn't a total turnover every 2 years. Half of the current members' term is October 2016 – October 2018, and the other half of the current members would have a term of October 2016 – October 2019.
 - MAWA could begin to recruit new WWG members at the Spring 2018 meeting, following the established process of filling out the application.
 - Two year terms will be renewable. WWG members may remain on the work group with another two year commitment. (Not sure at this time if we should cap the total number of terms.)

3. WWG Member Replacement Plan:

--Two WWG members have already had to step down from the group. In the future when this occurs, the MAWA board will: 1. Reach out to the member's local agency to ask if someone else can replace the resigning member for the remainder of their term. 2. Recruit a replacement from among the like-sized agencies through the State's weekly newsletter.